

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /024 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND:SM

APPROVED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND

EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY

CU:LTSTULL

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R 292343Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

1. AS THE US AND USSR MOVE AHEAD WITH INCREASED COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES, IT WOULD APPEAR USEFUL TO ESTABLISH A MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH MID AND HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, IN A WIDE VARIETY OF FIELDS OF INTEREST, MIGHT EXCHANGE SHORT-TERM VISITS TO CONSULT WITH COLLEAGUES AND GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE IN THE OTHER COUNTRY, AND TO ESTABLISH NEW CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WHICH COULD LEAD TO INCREASED COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S INTERNATIONAL VISITOR (IV) PROGRAM PROVIDES THE MECHANISM FOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE. THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL OUTLINES AN IV PROGRAM BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD BE ADMINISTERED AND FUNDED ON THE US SIDE BY THE DEPARTMENT (CU), IN COORDINATION WITH EUR. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS BEFORE PROCEEDING BEYOND THE PRESENT PLANNING STAGE.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

A. VISITS WOULD BE FROM 3 TO 4 WEEKS DURATION (WE WISH TO AVOID TWO-WEEK VISITS SINCE THEY GENERALLY DO NOT PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUFFICIENT TIME TO GAIN AN ADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING OF

EITHER SIDE).

B. SENDING SIDE WOULD PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR ITS GRANTEES; RECEIVING SIDE WOULD PAY DOMESTIC COSTS (TRAVEL AND PER DIEM IN THE US AT CURRENT RATES FOR DEPARTMENT IV PROGRAM).

C. RECEIVING SIDE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING ITINERARIES AND PROGRAMS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SENDING SIDE AND THE GRANTEES' PROGRAMS WOULD BE IN THE VISITOR'S FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST AND MEET HIS NEEDS AND INTERESTS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION TO PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS, PROGRAM WOULD BE PLANNED TO GIVE VISITORS A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE OTHER COUNTRY'S SOCIETY.

D. PROGRAM WOULD BE PLANNED FOR INDIVIDUAL VISITS; GROUPS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT SHOULD NOT BE LARGER THAN THREE PERSONS (EXCLUSIVE OF INTERPRETERS).

E. THE RECEIVING SIDE WOULD PROVIDE ESCORT-INTERPRETERS AT NO COST TO THE SENDING SIDE.

F. THE US EMBASSY WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF SOVIET PARTICIPANTS PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE US; THE SOVIET EMBASSY WILL DO LIKEWISE IN THE US.

3. SELECTION OF VISITORS:

NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATE WILL BE MADE THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (OR OTHER DESIGNATED SOVIET AGENCY).

A. EITHER SIDE MAY PROPOSE CANDIDATES IT WISHES TO NOMINATE OR RECEIVE; THE OTHER SIDE SHALL CONCUR BEFORE A CANDIDATE IS ACCEPTED.

B. TO AVOID FORMAL NOMINATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE RECEIVING SIDE, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY MOSCOW AND THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD CONSULT INFORMALLY IN ADVANCE REGARDING NOMINATIONS AND AVAILABILITY OF CANDIDATES.

C. THE PROGRAM COULD BE INITIATED IN THE FALL OF 1974 OR AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE THEREAFTER. AN OVERALL BALANCE WOULD BE SOUGHT FOR NUMBERS OF PERSONS EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EXCHANGED DURING ANY SINGLE YEAR WOULD, OF COURSE, BE DEPENDENT

ON THE CU BUDGET, AS WELL AS OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE190844
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: YRICHMOND:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740240-0859
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974086/aaaaaewc.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SOVIET INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005